DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I am replying to your question...(*Interruptions*)...Now, we have gone to the next stage of AIDS with a slogan, "AIDS cannot be cured, but can be treated." Initially, we were carrying out awareness activities. Now, we are going to the next stage of treating AIDS patients. Sir, as we all know, treatment of AIDS is a costly affair. Now, we have got a Global Fund for treating AIDS patients. We have got US $ 165 million. This amount would be used to treat AIDS patients. And, we have got Rs. 25 crores from Budget for treatment of AIDS patients through anti-retroviral drugs.

Funds for upgradation of hospitals in Assam

*170. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Assam Government for allocation of more funds for the upgradation of various hospitals in the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have received a number of proposals from Government of Assam for upgradation of various hospitals in the State. These include the proposals for upgradation of three medical colleges at Silchar, Guwahati and Dibrugarh, construction of 30-bedded hospital and improvement of existing building at Mahur, upgradation of rural hospital at Maibong, upgradation of Civil Hospital at Halflong, upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Government Hospital at Nazira and Civil Hospital at Sonari etc. which are under consideration for funding subject to technical feasibility and availability of funds for upgradation and strengthening of facilities at Government hospitals at National Highways under Ministry as well as under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR). A project proposal has also been received from the Government of Assam for State Health System Development with an estimated outlay of Rs. 382

crores which has been forwarded to the World Bank for consideration through the Department of Economic Affairs.

However, grants of Rs. 1.10 crore have been released to the Government of Assam for providing facilities of Hospital Waste Management at the medical colleges at Guwahati, Dibrugarh and Silchar and Mohindera Mohan Chaudhry Hospital, Guwahati. A grant of Rs. 1.50 crores each has also been released to Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh and Nalbari District Hospital, Nalbari, for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities. Further, three health projects have also been sanctioned from the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources *viz.* upgradation of Guwahati Medical College at an estimated cost of Rs. 8.0 crores, construction of 100-bedded Civil Hospital at Udalguri at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.69 crores and development of Assam Medical College at Dibrugarh at an estimated cost of Rs. 20.0 crores.

SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Sir, the Government have identified some hospitals and medical colleges—excluding Assam and North-Eastern Region—in the country to upgrade them to the standard of AIIMS. Former Health Minister, Shri Shatrughan Sinha, announced in Guwahati that Guwahati Medical College Hospital would be upgraded to the level of AIIMS. But, in the reply given by the hon. Minister, I found no mention about it. So, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is having any such proposal to upgrade Guwahati Medical College Hospital to the level of AIIMS?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, there is already a proposal to build a hospital at Neighrims in Shillong to the level of AIIMS with a Budgetary estimate of Rs. 433 crores. It will be completed during the course of time.

As regards Assam, there is no such proposal to upgrade any of the institution to the level of AIIMS. But, there is a proposal to upgrade Guwahati Medical College and the technical study has already been completed.

SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Sir, my second supplementary is this. The hon. Minister has mentioned that for upgradation of Guwahati Medical College, he is going to sanction Rs. 8 crores. But, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this

upgradation process has been assessed by any agency and on what basis this amount of Rs. 8 crores has been fixed.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, the Director General of Health Services carried out technical evaluation study. A proposal, along with technical comments, for upgradation of Guwahati Medical College has been forwarded to DoNER which involves an estimated amount of Rs. 72 crores and we have also taken up three other medical colleges—Silchar, Guwahati and Dibrugarh—in Assam for upgradation.

*171[The questioner (PROF. SAIFUD-DIN-SOZ) was absent. For answer *vide* page 34 *infra*.]

National Crop Insurance Scheme

*172. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Crop Insurance Scheme is being implemented in the whole country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of total number of Indian farmers who have got the benefits of National Crop Insurance Scheme during the last three years, year-wise/State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is under implementation in the country since Rabi 1999-2000. The scheme is open to all the States/UTs, Statement of the States/UTs which have opted for the scheme is given at Statement-I (*See* below).

(d) A Statement indicating State-wise farmers benefited from Rabi 2000-01 to Kharif 2003 under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) in the country given at Statement-II.